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Civil Society Organizations Awarded

The International Civil Society Forum, "Civil Society and Policy Influencing: The European Context and Peace Building," brought together Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot CSOs, their stakeholders, members and associates, plus representatives from international civil society, the private sector, the public sector, the EU, and other interested parties. The all day event featured plenaries, presentations and discussions revolving around civil society engagement and activism, with a specific focus on influencing policy and building peace.

The day closed with a moonlit red carpet Civil Society Awards Ceremony and cocktail reception. One organization from each community claimed an award for their contribution to social development in six unique categories: education and culture; environment; gender issues; health; youth; and social inclusion. In addition, two organizations were awarded a special island-wide cooperation award and two more were honored with a surprise "Juror's Choice Award."



"Members expect it, the private sector needs it, and transparent governance requires it"



What do members expect, the private sector need, and transparent governance require? According to EDGE Chief of Party Mark McCord, the answer is public policy advocacy. "With all its pitfalls, public policy advocacy is the foundational strength of most business associations," he said in an EDGE-organized workshop on international best practices in public policy advocacy. More than twenty-five participants from different Cypriot business associations attended the workshop. The second in a series of workshops, this event focused on public policy advocacy systems, delivered through a presentation, breakout sessions and discussion groups led by EDGE team members. It also featured a panel discussion on "Mobilizing the Turkish Cypriot Business Community for Success in Public Policy Advocacy."

The mission of USAID/Cyprus is to encourage cooperation between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot individuals and organizations to reduce tensions and promote a climate that will foster reconciliation and a durable peace settlement.

SAVE

After five months of soil moisture studies assessing Cypriot irrigation methods, SAVE produced guidelines for farmers that could save up to 10% of their water supply, including differentiating the water levels depending on soil type and season. The team also visited the water station in Kumkoy to inspect the pipes for water meter installation. SAVE prepared short written accounts with photographic and illustrative documentation of Famagusta project sites for their Cultural Heritage Database. Small grant proposals are due to SAVE by June 13th and the review board will convene on the 26th. SAVE's "How Does Your Garden Grow?" manual is in its final design process.

EDGE

EDGE finalized the distribution plan for the Buyukkonuk brochure and illustrative map and met with Buyukkonuk's website developer to discuss final content and design issues. EDGE held the Animal Feeding and Rationing Course from June 4th - 6th. Nineteen dairy farmers and agriculture engineers participated in the course and evaluations were conducted based on a pre and post test. EDGE's training coordinator conducted two "Training of Trainers" workshops for the Basic Banking Team on the topics of "Examination Writing" and "Presentation and Facilitation Skills." EDGE provided pest control assistance to the capers growers and assistance with packaging machinery to Kantara Honey. EDGE also met with the company that conducted the TC Information Technology survey to review the final results and provide input on a presentation of the results.

ACT

ACT's partner, the Center for the Advancement of Research and Development in Educational Technology (CARDET) organized a "Strategic Planning for Innovation and E-Learning" seminar that addressed opportunities for funding and innovation in small organizations. The "Volunteer, Make a Difference" public awareness campaign organized by the ACT-funded Cyprus Volunteer Network Project kicked off with a press conference on June 13th. The "Cyprus Peace Culture Forum for Joint Actions," a civil society initiative funded by ACT and organized by the United Cyprus Platform—a bi-communal platform of overseas Cypriots—will run from June 13th - 19th. The forum features presentations on peace work and peace tools by members of both Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot NGOs.

REAP

The Turkish Cypriot electricity utility made the official decision to unbundle, marking an important milestone in REAP's long-term efforts. REAP experts will now work with the unbundling steering committee to assist with the process. REAP registered the Energy Professionals Association (EPA) in the European Commission's PADOR system and assisted them in opening a bank account. REAP staff also updated the EPA website and assisted EPA in the development and dissemination of a press release announcing their technology seminar. REAP finalized the case studies about the audits and energy efficiency equipment installations that were implemented at two hotels.

News from Nicosia

June 11

Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot political parties announced their agreement to support the two leaders in their efforts to reach a solution of the Cyprus problem.



SAVE's soil moisture studies revealed that simple adjustments in irrigation practices could result in water savings of 10%, or approximately 300 tons per acre. Because agriculture accounts for roughly 70% of Cypriot water use, these water savings could have a significant impact on water conservation.

OUR PROJECTS

- The **Action for Cooperation and Trust (ACT)** program mainstreams the concepts of conflict resolution in over 120 projects that encourage Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots to work on issues of common concern and solve problems together. Projects are currently underway in the areas of youth, education and tolerance, civil society strengthening, sustainable development and cultural heritage preservation. ACT is funded through a cooperative agreement between USAID and the UN Development Program (UNDP).
- The **Cyprus Partnership for Economic Growth (CyPEG)** includes activities that support economic growth in the Turkish Cypriot community to decrease the disparities between the communities and promote reconciliation. CyPEG is implemented by U.S. contractors under different USAID contract mechanisms.
 - The objective of the **Economic Development and Growth for Enterprises (EDGE)** project is to strengthen the domestic and international competitiveness of Turkish-Cypriot small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and help restructure the financial sector so that SMEs can thrive.
 - The **Resource Efficiency Achievement Program (REAP)** promotes more efficient use of water and energy by conducting audits and upgrades of representative business establishments and households. REAP also provides technical assistance to Turkish Cypriot energy experts.
 - The **Supporting Activities that Value the Environment (SAVE)** project focuses on improving (1) the competitiveness, financial status, and quality of basic services and infrastructure to more easily meet international and EU standards and (2) Turkish Cypriot capacity to manage natural and cultural resources for economic growth.